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AP Literature and Composition

Reflection: This I Believe

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Upon receiving this assignment, I was really excited but also quite intimidated to write my “This I Believe” essay. I was excited because I was completely free to choose what I wanted to write about and the fact that I got to write about my beliefs. Within my excitement though, I found the challenge of putting into words exactly what it is that I believe. I like to think that I have unique beliefs that involve a wide variety of topics, and choosing what I thought was my most important and distinguishing belief proved to be rather tricky.

I feel that there is always room for improvement in my writing, but for this essay in particular there is even more room. I don’t mean to necessarily say that I’m not proud of what I wrote, but stating my beliefs and writing them down on paper proved to be rather difficult for me. I don’t think I would ever be satisfied with how I decide to word my opinions for other people to read. In my mind I understand exactly what I believe, but when I go to write it down I go blank.

One major challenge that I had while writing this essay was that I felt I was mirroring Rachel’s Challenge. My first draft sounded like something that came right from the presentation we had in school. Of course this was not my intent; the fact that we can all live forever by helping others has always been one of my major beliefs. I did consider changing my entire essay topic to avoid the similarities with Rachel’s Challenge, but I wanted to challenge myself to make it fully my own, and I feel that I succeeded in doing so. I chose to stay with my topic of living forever because I feel that is it one of my beliefs that defines me the most. I’m very glad that I stuck with my original topic because writing it down helped me to understand my belief to a greater and fuller extent.